

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said interrupt routine is triggered by an event generated by a timer or an external signal.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~8~~¹⁰, wherein a failure in the activation of a programmed sequence, as determined by said monitoring, is made to cause a complete or partial reset of said programmed system.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The program of claim ~~16~~¹⁹, wherein said programmed sequences are taken from the group consisting of: routines and main program loops.

18. (Original) The program of claim 17, wherein said programmed sequences comprise interrupt routines.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The computer program of claim ~~16~~, comprising at least a first and a second programmed sequence, each to be executed iteratively,

wherein said first programmed sequence incorporates instructions for monitoring the execution of said second programmed sequence, and said second programmed sequence incorporates instructions for monitoring said first programmed sequence, and

wherein said first programmed sequence comprises the steps of resetting a first counter associated therewith and incrementing a second counter associated with said second programmed sequence, and said second programmed sequence comprises the steps of resetting said second counter and incrementing said first counter, a failure in the activation of a particular programmed sequence being detected when a counter associated with that sequence reaches a predetermined threshold.

20. (Original) The program of claim 19, wherein, for a given counter, said predetermined threshold is established so as to be reached upon just one failure of the corresponding programmed sequence to reset that counter.